1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

of the traditional non-kin social organizations had an economic motivation.

In rural areas, organizations such as the Red Spear Society (Hung-ch'iang Hui) and the Mutual Protection Society (Lien-ya Hui) existed for the protection of the inhabitants against roving bandits. These voluntary associations arose in areas where the government failed to maintain order and peace, and their organization cut across class and occupational lines. When landlords were forced to move into towns during periods of disorder, peasants and tenants would become so powerful that at times they defied the landlords' demand for exorbitant rents.

Among the artisans and workers in China there were for generations both craft builds (hongs) and regional guilds (pongs). As in Europe, these guilds were not intended to serve the interests of workers as a class, but to promote the crafts and guard their monopoly and secrets. Both employers and employees were members, but the employers usually dominated the guilds' activities.[5]

Another kind of association existed to serve travelers, who were usually merchants, in

5. Nym Wales, The Chinese Labor Movement, New York, The John Day Co., 1945, p. 7.

1:Stanford U. S-4, 5 1956 AF14 Central China AF14

cities outside their home county or province. 484
These associations t'ung-hsiang hui, organized on a county or provincial basis, facilitated by maintaining buildings and personnel in distant cities the dealings of their constituents who might have language or other types of difficulties.

Most significant and disturbing to the 575
social structure were the secret societies. They were, in fact, hierarchical societies within a society. A notable example was the Ko-lao Hui, which was called Hung-pang in the Central-South Region. The bulk of the membership of this secret society was drawn from the unemployed in the rural areas and organized under strict and severe discipline. They were instructed to rob the rich, to help the poor, rescue the oppressed, and overthrow Manchu rule. Its leadership, however, was in the hands of the landlord class. The Ko-lao Hui became such a strong underworld force that Sun Yat-sen had to solicit its co-operation in his efforts to overthrow the Manchu dynasty. After the fall of the Manchu regime, many warlords of North China obtained power by way of the Ko-lao Hui hierarchy and by utilizing its mass followings.[6]

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6. Ko-lao Hui and Ch'ing-pang, Hsi-pei Yen-chiu she, 1941, pp. 5-6.